

**Monroe County LEICC Meeting Notes**  
**October 24, 2012**

**Attendees:** Tracey Taylor, Marjorie Dobra, Beth Warner, Nancy Consol, Jody Ellis, Karen Stolt, Lisa Pedersen, Jennifer Guiles, Kathy McCarthy-Proulx, Ann Marie Stephan, Jill Del Vecchio, Mariellen Cupini, Robin Adair, Liz Baltus-Hebert, Sarah Farash

**Scribe: Beth Warner**

Welcome to new attendees & introductions

Motion to approve last minutes: minutes approved

**Ann Marie - Updates:**

- Deadline for less than arms length comment due 10/22/12
  - Would not allow evaluator and provider from same agency
  - Service coordinator can be OK w/parent consent
  - Independent providers must be S.C. or provider not both
  - No public hearings, written comment was accepted
  - EICC – much opposition ; recommended NYS remove that language and recommended NYS take stronger action towards individual evaluator; children to put into their own program; motion did not pass
  - Next few weeks will review public comment and then make a decision

**Mariellen Cupini – Winning Beginnings Advocacy Group – Marsha Dunka**

- Commenting on many areas of early childhood education but also less-than-arms-length
- Other areas Winning Beginnings should be looking into?
  - Look at Winning Beginnings NY website
    - Add in S.C. rates – recomm.

Recomm. from RAP – exploring other service delivery models. If goes into effect, will start 12/1/12.

- S.C. may struggle to meet timelines
- Providers considering whether to be evaluators or providers LTAL cont
- Waiver process
  - S.C. can request to use same provider as evaluator, waiver process can take too long
  - No form available yet
  - “blanket waiver” – limited availability of service (e.g. ToD) supposedly NYS has 10 days to respond to waivers
  - How will waivers be decided upon? Not known at this time. Waiting for guidance to be issued
- S.C. rates issued April 2013
  - EI – Jan 1, 2013 – using fiscal agent for billing
  - Jan – Apr – Monroe County still responsible for paying providers
  - NYSAC – questions re: why this happening this way also who is NYS Fiscal? This is supposed to happen Jan 1, no one has any details regarding webinar training, etc.
  - Also Jan 1, NYS will have ability to enter into contracts directly with providers; providers received e-mail in Sept. regarding this

**NYEIS**

- Continues to have many issues
- Enhancements lead to other problems

- In Jan 2014 NYS budget proposed, expect budget to contain providers interacting with insurance companies
- Invite someone from insurance company to LEICC? PIP? (Mariellen asked)
- We need support for the transition.
- Monroe County meeting with HEG soon to work this out
- Billing KIDS kids vs. NYEIS kids? – uncertain as of now (less than 500 KIDS kids as of now)

Tracey – one practice is using “blanket prescriptions” to approve any service not specific enough.

Robin A. – Most doctors do not know about scripts. We need to come up with template that works for everyone.

Ann Marie – Script template may not work, because doctors already have their own templates electronically

Robin A. – If providers could send a summary to doctor, it would be helpful to the doctors and streamline process. Pediatricians may not know if child needs OT/PT, need more specific information.

Tracey – Sometimes original ICD-9 does not fit current needs. Keep sending scripts back to doctors with explanation of area of need? This is going to further complicate billing and delay services. How can we communicate with pediatricians? Not every pediatrician belongs to groups that already exist.

Nancy C. – Can we suggest an ICD-9 code to a pediatrician?

Robin A. – Unlikely doctor would sign off to an ICD-9 code if child not already evaluated in that area. If eval already taken place, doctor may feel more comfortable if ICD-9 code is suggested? Send eval information specifics to doctor.

Jody E. – Could providers make suggestions to doctors for a uniform format for scripts? Could we make a template that would work for EI, preschool and school age? Saw a script template that looked good from RGH? Fairly new.

Robin A. – May be from EMR.

Further discussion will happen on this topic

### **Pre-School Update:**

- PIP and CPSE chair people met - each will come up with a list of what they will do and expectations

### **Provider Updates**

- New TVI – Cindy Flowers-Figueroa and Theresa Lehman – Westside; Gail Doran – Eastside
- Independent OT – Micki Woodruff – no longer doing EI
- Sharon Shafrir moved out of town – Public Awareness needs new chairperson – Marsha Dunka?

New commitment/recommitment forms for LEICC – Tracey will review and e-mail out

### **Jill DelVecchio - Ice Cream Social**

- 7 families – diverse, small turnout, but good looking at larger venue for next year
- Time of year? Day of the week? – looking for families’ input
- Providers brought activities – more for next year
- Possible for next year – GS troops to engage kids; other counties included; nice raffle; gift bags
- Forms collected from families – suggestions?
  - Interested in getting involved w/LEICC
  - More flexibility to get involved when children are older than 3
  - Reviving Transition Committee? – Workshop to discuss transition
  - Connecting support to parents for transition e.g. parent-to-parent
  - Parents may feel “dropped” into preschool (no more S.C., etc.) – may need information, support after transition happens (parents may not “hear” it at the time, be overwhelmed)
  - Kathy’s workshop “Vision” – What’s Next?
    - Loss of parent’s “dream” for child
    - Best to get parents involved in positive advocacy as soon as possible
    - Kathy’s “Vision” workshop – already exists – could we offer to parents transiting?

- Parents of older children may be negative – could be tailored to specific audience – per Kathy
- Some parents don't know they have permission to dream for their children with special needs
- Kathy can set up "Vision" workshop at specific time of year

## **Community Information Forum – September, 2012**

- Great attendance
  - Senator Joseph Robach, representatives for Sean Hanna and Mark John
  - Parents – phenomenal, touching stories
  - 3 providers spoke: Joan Fisher – Independent; Christine Sheffer – MCCC; and Barbara – FRC
  - When MCCC stopped EI, they were \$1.5 million in debt
  - Barbara from FRC – displacement of 250 families, 10 employees – would have liked more time

Cindy Kaley – SLP MC legislat. offered to go to Albany to advocate for us

Kathy Mc-P. – We have to establish these relationships with legislators

Mariellen – Senator Robach still thinking about how to help EI. His summation at the Forum was bleak, "We all need to cut", etc. He is looking for specifics for what to advocate for We should get onto Governor's agenda for budget comment trip to Albany

Tracey asked Marsha D. – waiting to hear back; can we get Cindy Kaley involved? Winning Beginnings? Etc. Albany – rally parents

Robin A. – What purpose? To address 2014 budget issues – how EI is affected

Mariellen – Winning Beginnings – wants specific "ask" amount and why and how this will be paid for – going after insurance? WB tact

Robin A. – lack of communication with insurance companies

Ann Marie – NYS does not know what's going on at county level – insurance companies not aware what's going on

Mariellen – Insurance companies busy with ASD law changes; now may be better ready to look at EI

Robin A. – Why are we billing insurance companies if it is known the claims will be denied? System set up poorly. Alternative service models should be explored; providers will be wasting their time

Tracey – Anticipates Marsha will respond soon. Tracey will send out updates to set Albany visits up. Sen, Morelle – head of insurance companies – we need meeting to plan for this.

WB conference calls – list of parents exists; draw on parents who spoke at the Forum.

Mariellen - Parents may ask for "everything"

Tracey – Because they don't know; because they are asked at the IFSP "What do you want for your child?"

Kathy Mc-P – Parents are unsure what's on the "menu"

Ann Marie – Children may remain in EI if their outcomes are not met; one MDE, further standardized testing not required; children stay in even if they don't continue to meet initial eligibility requirements

Lisa Pederson – Parents frustrated if they don't get same level of service in preschool that they got in EI; in other states, yearly or more frequent testing is required to remain in EI

Robin A. – Legislators most responsive to data for e.g. kids get to preschool age, do not need services if already addressed in EI (what percentage?)

Karen – Parents must be educated on what EI is for – kids with severe needs

Jody E. – EI is not forever, etc. Everyone needs to be on same page. We need back-up from NYS

**Next meeting: January 23, 2013 Location: TBA**

**Need vote – more parent involvement – Tracey and Marjorie willing to do 2 more years.**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm**